

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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Contact: Cooper Bratton
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY HELP LAUNCH OF DONORSCHOOSE NC *Web Site to Link N.C. Teachers to Donors Across the State and the Country*

Durham— Governor Mike Easley and the First Lady today helped launch DonorsChoose N.C. in 15 pilot school districts across North Carolina. DonorsChooseSM is a nonprofit marketplace on the internet where teachers and citizens connect to give students resources they need to learn.

"North Carolina has been a national leader in its focus on teacher quality," said Easley. "Supporting teacher excellence and creativity is an important way to ensure great teaching in our classrooms and increased student achievement. That is why I am pleased that DonorsChoose has selected North Carolina as its first expansion outside New York. We look forward to supporting teachers across the state and to serving as a model for other states around the country."

Originally launched in 2000, www.donorschoose.org allows teachers to submit proposals for any resource that would enhance their students' learning. Proposals may include requests for books, art supplies, science equipment, computers or a variety of other materials. Individuals around the state and the country can review the proposals and choose to fund the ones they find most compelling. When a proposal is funded, DonorsChoose purchases the materials for the teacher and compiles photographs, student thank-you notes, a teacher impact letter, and receipts for the donor.

DonorsChoose N.C. will follow in the footsteps of the New York office, which has funded nearly \$1 million worth of projects in less than four years. The following 15 school districts are currently participating in the program:

Asheville
Burke County
Caldwell County
Charlotte/Mecklenburg County
Cumberland County
Durham County
Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County
Granville County

Halifax County
Nash/Rocky Mount
Onslow County
Pender County
Wake County
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Wilson County

The program will be available to teachers statewide in August of this year and is estimated to direct \$100,000 worth of resources to North Carolina schools by the end of the 2004 school year.

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Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166